

# *The Marquee*

Newsletter of the Association of Kansas Theatre

Volume 20 Number 3

January/ February 1994

## *Convention '94 The Diversity of Kansas Theatre*

1974

1994

*Celebrating 20 Years*  
**AKT**  
*Kansas Theatre*

*March 3-6, 1994*

*McPherson College  
McPherson, KS*



20th Birthday Bash

## Convention Features Fun, Friends, And Functions

Share the diversity of Kansas theatre this spring at the upcoming AKT convention at McPherson College, and help celebrate AKT's 20th birthday while you meet people, see shows, attend workshops, and share memories of past AKT conventions. Set for March 3-6 in McPherson, this year's convention is sure to be one that you will remember.

Dr. Norman Fedder, distinguished professor of theatre at Kansas State University, will serve as the keynote speaker at Saturday evening's dinner meeting. A member of the Kansas Theatre Hall of Fame, he is a widely produced playwright and registered drama therapist. Fedder will also be presenting two workshop sessions during the convention; see the following article for further information.

Diversity is the theme of

The Marquee is published as a membership service of the Association of Kansas Theatre, Inc. Members are encouraged to submit information and articles about their work, special interests, honors/awards, or issues of concern to the general membership.

The mention of a product, service, publication, conference, workshop, meeting, etc., in The Marquee does not constitute endorsement or sponsorship, nor is it an indication of quality by The Marquee or AKT unless specifically stated.

The Marquee is a publication of AKT Central Office, 230 Curtis Street, Hutchinson, KS 67502-2422. 1-800-343-2779.

Lou Brewer, Interim Editor

this year's convention, and you will enjoy the ideas and responses given by the following outstanding theatre professionals: Mary Guaraldi, associate artistic director of Missouri Repertory Theatre at UMKC; Daisy Kabagarama, playwright, director and professor of sociology and anthropology at McPherson; and David Spangler, playwright, director, and director of the Lovewell Institute in Salina.

An all-Kansas cast will present a script-in-hand reading of a Kansas play at some point during the convention. As of Jan. 13, only one script had been received for consideration: Final Position, a full-length courtroom drama by Janice Smith of Wichita. Deadline

for submission is Feb. 25, so there is still time to dust off that original script and send to either Susan Sutton or Ric Averill. Only two rehearsals will be held prior to performance, so don't miss this exciting convention highlight which will be directed by Susan Sutton. We are sure the cast will be delighted to sign autographs following the production.

Don't hesitate to join your fellow theatre lovers as they meet to discuss and share the difference and unity of culture in conflict; the abled and disabled, teachers and directors, performers and playwrights, communities and professionals, and colleges and high schools.

### *Fedder To Present Workshops on Divorce and Prejudice*

Dr. Norman J. Fedder, Distinguished Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the theatre program at Kansas State University, will be offering two unique and interesting sessions during the upcoming AKT Convention.

"Coping With Divorce Through Drama: A Performance/Discussion of the play Custody" will be one of these sessions. Custody, written and directed by Fedder, was written to be utilized in the counseling of divorced parents. The play will be given a staged reading. Following this, the

characters will be interviewed in role; after which, the audience will be invited to ask them questions, followed by a discussion of the issues raised. Performers will include Charles Bland, Brinton Everett, Elizabeth Robbins, and Jay Robbins.

A panel of representative bigots, role-played by AKT members, will be interviewed in "Confronting Prejudice Through Drama: A Meeting of Bigots Anonymous." After the presentation, audience members will be invited to confront the prejudices of the participants, and a

(Continued on page 3)



## Notes From The President

This will be my last chance to speak through the Marquee to you as AKT President. I hope it won't be my last chance to tell you how much I have enjoyed my time in the "hot seat." I must admit, it's been a most interesting two years....

Before I even begin to get sentimental, let me change tracks. CONVENTION '94 is coming fast upon us. By now, you should have received your Convention brochure and hopefully sent back your registration forms and fees. As the days pass while Lou and I hustle to get things done for our meeting in McPherson, I'm getting more and more excited about seeing all of your again! I do hope you are planning to join us!

Ric Averill and Laurie VanderPol-Hosek have done another superb job as Convention Co-Chairs in lining up workshops and performances. I think we have offerings that will interest, stimulate and even excite you. And, the fun is there, too!

Saturday evening's dinner is a celebration of the first 20 years of AKT. We've invited all the Past Presidents and Hall of Fame recipients for that evening, so it could be a truly "star-studded" affair! Norman Fedder will be the Convention keynote speaker, which should be remarkable. And, there's so much more to say about Convention that this Marquee is devoted almost entirely to what's going on!

On other matters, this has been a most exciting and rewarding year for me as President. I said last

year that we needed to do some serious planning, and we have! There is a long-range process in action, with most of this first year's hopes and dreams already realized. We now have an AKT Endowment Fund established to help preserve the future of the organization with hopes of establishing an AKT Scholarship Fund. And on and on go the changes!

The Board will be conducting a second round of Executive Director interviews on March 3, just prior to the opening of the Convention. Maybe with luck we'll find just the right person to fill that vacancy and can introduce him/her to you at Convention. *(NOTE: The Board decided to re-open the position with a closing date of February 28, 1994. See article elsewhere for more information.)*

AKT is changing, which makes me feel that my work this past two years was worth all the fussing and worrying. There is a bright future out there ahead of this organization, if we only follow through on it. There's plenty of work to do, and I hope you'll be a part of that future!

Finally, my "Thank You's:"

First, to the current Board of Directors. They have been insightful, supportive, hardworking, concerned, focused and, most importantly, they have shared their own love for AKT with each other. I'm going to miss all those long "bored" meetings; all those funny, but warmly meant

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Kansas Arts Excellence Grant Applications Included In This Issue

Inside this issue of The Marquee you will find an application form for the 1994 Kansas Arts Excellence Program grant. Southwestern Bell Foundation provides \$50,000 to be awarded in grants up to \$3,000 each to fund programs and projects in the categories of Arts Council Educational Projects, Community Theatre Developmental Projects, and Performing and Visual Arts Underwriting.

If your organization can qualify according to the grant application guidelines listed on the front of the application, please be sure to meet the March 1, 1994, deadline.

## Fedder Workshops...

*(Continued from page 2)*

discussion will be held concerning the issues presented.

A member of the Kansas Theatre Hall of Fame, Fedder is a widely produced playwright and registered drama therapist. He teaches playwriting, creative drama, American ethnic theatre, and he leads workshops in these fields throughout the nation. Fedder serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association for Drama Therapy and is Director of the Drama Network of the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education.



## *Student Thespians Now Represented On AKT Board*

During last summer's Board retreat, it was decided to ask two high school state thespian students to sit on the board in an advisory capacity. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce AKT members to these two young women.

Melissa Pamperin is a senior at Maize High School, and she serves as president of Thespian Troupe 3596. Melissa has served on the Kansas State Thespian Board for two years.

Our other student rep is Laura Crow, a senior at Blue Valley North High School. She has also served as president of her local Thespian Troupe, and Laura has been on the State Thespian Board for three years.

Please take the time to say hello and welcome to these two active teenagers at the upcoming convention.

## ***Nominations Due for AKT Awards***

The deadline is rapidly approaching to nominate those persons and organizations whom you think should be recognized for their support of Kansas theatre. A major highlight of the convention, your nominations with supporting materials should be sent to Susan Sutton, at Cloud County Community College, Concordia, KS 66901, by **Feb. 18**. Be certain to include the nominee's name, address, and phone number, as well as the name, address, and phone number of the nominator.

Any AKT member in good standing can nominate a candidate for

*(Continued on page 6)*

## **President Notes Continued...**

*(Continued from page 3)*

notes in the minutes that LVPH "went off..." on some topic; the frank, honest and productive discussion; the confusion, the planning, the decisions to be made. To the Board members directly: my most ardent thanks for all you've done for and with me for AKT! To the Membership: perhaps none of what this particular Board has accomplished may ever seem to show on the surface, but AKT is a leaner, stronger, more focused organization than ever before because of your Board of Directors.

Next, to Ric "Soon-To-Be" President Averill: Thank you for helping to cut through most of the matters that seemed at times to the rest of us so confusing or bewildering with a clearly stated thought, plan or motion that seemed so simple after the fact. Thank you for the behind-the-scenes part you have played as President-Elect in ways I was unable to do in that capacity. I told you that when I hand you the gavel, your life will change in ways you never dreamed of, and that's more true than you believe, but AKT is about to experience you, too! It'll be great for both, I know. Stand by, AKT; Ric is about to enter!

Finally, to my Lou. Thank you for our 23 years together and your simply being there whenever you were needed. And, then I put you in the middle of this! Frankly, folks, the work of the AKT Central Office IS Lou. Not just the Marquee (which I think looks

wonderfully fresh and informative), but the phone calls, the typing, the Board minutes, the bulk mailings, the Convention brochure, the Membership Directory, the Convention program, the letters, the time, the time, the time....

If you in the membership haven't met Lou, please stop by the Registration Desk at Convention and say "Thank You." She'll be the one with the computerized database that can answer questions "six ways from Sunday." She'll be the one who searched for just the right piece of software for your name tags; who fought the bulk mailing process to get you your information in a more timely fashion; who researched 20 years of Marquees; who quietly sat--well, sometimes, anyway--at Board meetings and took minutes; who spoke up on her own to say, "I can have it tomorrow," and then did her best to get it there. My compliments on a job well done, especially considering she is a seventh & eighth grade teacher during the day! (That's enough to fill anyone's day!) And, then she has to put up with me!!

There are others out there "too numerous to mention." If I miss you, know right now how much I have appreciated everyone in theatre in Kansas. It doesn't get any better than this!

Thank you all for my time with you, AKT. Thank you for all that you have given me in return. I'll carry you all with me forever. SEE YOU IN THE THEATRE!

*Bill Brewer, AKT President  
AKT President*



## Thunderbird Theatre Performance Kicks Off Convention

Performances have always been an integral part of the AKT Convention, but this year's convention-goers are in for a treat. Numerous performances will be available for your entertainment starting with Thursday night's production of **Songs of Life** by the Thunderbird Theatre from Haskell Indian Junior College.

The Seem-To-Be Players from Lawrence will present **The Bremen Town Musicians: An Urban Fairy Tale**. **Custody**, written and directed by Dr. Norman Fedder of Kansas State University, will be presented in conjunction with the workshop "Coping with

Divorce Through Drama" conducted by Fedder.

Three monologues from **Adults Orgasmo Escapes from the Zoo** will be presented by Chanute Community Theatre, and the Illustrated Theatre Company from Chicago and Denver will perform "Transformational Theatre." Manhattan Civic Theatre's Experimental Theatre will do **The Bambi Pieces**, while **Comedy Shop** will be presented by the Lawrence based Renegade Theatre.

**The Boys Next Door** will not be presented as announced earlier in your convention brochure.

## Community Theatre Division Sends Out Call

by Laurie VanderPol-Hosek

Hellooooo Out There in TheatreLandddd!!! The community Theatre division needs your input. Send in the stories of your good news, successes, victories from your theatres, and we will give them their deserved attention in The Marquee. This newsletter is FOR YOU and needs

news FROM YOU!!

Rick Bushnell of Chanute is the new Community Theatre Division chair-elect. Rick and I will be co-chairing a special committee at the convention this year. This group will be researching and developing new ways to distribute the awards given by AKT at the AACT/FEST every other year.

"It is totally up to us--how to distribute these awards. If people are not happy and feeling good about their work when they leave AACT/FEST, then we are doing something wrong, and we need to remedy that!"

Any AKT member is welcome to join this newly formed committee, but you must be willing to attend both planning sessions at the convention. Rick wants to pass on this message: "Please be a part of the solution; help us to restructure the way Kansas handles its AACT/FEST winners! See you at the Convention!!!"

## Schools Gear Up For T.I.O.S.M. 1994

Once again it is timeto begin planning our Theatre In Our Schools Month celebrations for March 1994. TIOSM, a joint project of the American Alliance for Theatre and Education and the Educational Theatre Association, is our chance to recognize and celebrate theatre and drama in education.

In Kansas last March, over 255 students participated in 17 productions. These were seen in 36 schools for a total audience of 15,000. There were also 19 workshops involving 2,900 students. (These figures only represent what was reported and not the total participation.)

Posters, buttons, idea sheets, and information activites are only some of a wide variety of materials available to help in planning TIOSM activities. Estelle Getty is serving as this year's honorary chairperson, and many of the materials have been re-designed to include her.

To receive materials or for more information, please contact Kansas chairperson Trish McIntire, 415 S. 3rd, Arkansas City, KS 67005.

### FREE!! FREE!! FREE!!

One large block (4ft. x 2 ft.) of styrofoam to whomever will carry it away.

Call Joan Blazek  
Maize High School,  
Maize, KS  
(316) 722-0441

### AKT Endowment Fund Donors

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Stafford Drama Guild

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## Workshops Will Explore The Diversity of Kansas Theatre

The diversity of Kansas theatre will be explored extensively during this year's AKT Convention through numerous workshops. Ranging from multi-cultural presentations to learning new ways to integrate disabled actors into local productions, these workshops will offer all AKT members a variety of experiences to help expand the knowledge and skills we are continually updating.

### Community College Update

When the University/ College Theatre Festival scheduled for November 20 was cancelled due to lack of full participation, two community colleges, Cloud County and Coffeyville, presented their plays at the Brown Grand Theatre in Concordia. Since both schools had prepared plays for the festival in Hutchinson, Susan Sutton, director of theatre at Cloud County, and Rozalyn Miller, director of theatre at Coffeyville, decided to present their plays despite the cancellation of the larger event at Hutchinson.

Cloud County presented a cut version of C.P. Taylor's And A Nightingale Sang, while Coffeyville staged a reader's theatre piece. Dr. Dennis Denning, retired director of theatre at Marymount College in Salina provided lively responses for casts and audience members alike.

With access to the historic Brown Grand Theatre, Cloud County Community College would like to hold a festival next. Dr. Denning is willing to do what he can to promote the event, and all Kansas university and college theatres are urged to get behind this worthwhile project and be a part of this event next fall.

### Executive Director Position Reopened

The search for AKT's new Executive Director has been extended until February 28. For a complete job description, contact the AKT Central Office at 230 Curtis Street, Hutchinson, KS 67502-2422, or call 1-800-343-2779.

Here is a partial list of workshops and presenters that will make your time at the convention well worthwhile:

Daisy Kabagarama will present "A Touch of African Theater," while Lanell Finneran, a registered drama therapist with the Menniger Foundation will present "Drama Therapy: Theatre for Relief, Integration, and Growth", an overview of drama therapy as well as how drama therapy techniques can be adapted to meet the needs of various populations. Participants should dress comfortably since some of the workshop will be experiential.

The "Arts Infusion Project: Integrating the Arts into the Basic Elementary Curriculum" will be presented in two parts according to Pam Jones. The morning session will explain what is happening in Salina with the infusion project, and the afternoon is an on-sight demonstration at McPherson's Middle School as Pam leads 5th grade students through an arts infusion drama exploration.

"Dueling Directors: Two Points of View" will have Rick Bushnell of Chanute and Laurie VanderPol-Hosek of Lawrence "tag-team" directing two actors in a scene. Special emphasis will be on these two director's approach to the work and their differences in philosophy. Rick will also cover choosing new scripts for your season, and Laurie will discuss using improvisation in the rehearsal process.

Other presenters and their workshops include: "New Possibilities for Using Disabled Actors" with Michael Byington; "Video/Film Audition" with Heather Laird of Kansas City based Wright Laird Casting; "Spiritual Theatre" with Paul Meier of the University of Kansas; "Grant Writing" with David Gresier; and "The William Inge Festival" with Jill Warford, director of the Inge Festival.

"How to Stage a Production Without a Stage" will be presented by David Sherlock, and David Spangler will provide information on his "Lovewell Institute." For those who want to "Write It! Act It! and ...Teach It!", Janice Suzanne Smith will tell you how to go about it. Piet Knetsch with "Professionals in the Theatre" will be in attendance, along with Tweila Schneiders with "Theatre With At-Risk Students".

At the time of publication there were even more workshops being suggested for inclusion at this year's convention. Attend and increase your knowledge. Remember teachers you can possibly receive professional development points for those workshops and performances that you attend.

**Kudos go to Susan Sutton on her appointment by Gov.. Finney to the Board of the Kansas Film Commission. Her term expires June 1996.**

### Award Nominations Needed....

*(Continued from page 4)*

one of the following awards: **Kansas Theatre Hall of Fame, Outstanding Achievement in Theatre, Steven B. Cathey Award, Award of Merit, and Legislator Award.** Letters have been mailed to all state high school theatre/drama teachers and to all principals asking for nominations for **The Outstanding High School Teachers and Administrators.** Be sure to nominate fellow teachers or administrators who have supported the development of theatre in the school environment.

Within this issue of The Marquee, you will find an insert containing a full description of these awards, and we urge you to please get in your nominations for these awards as soon as possible. You may also give Susan a call at 913-243-1435 to make your nominations by phone and then follow it up with the supporting information.



## THE ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS THEATRE



Dear AKT Member:

**Theatre of Diversity: KANSAS**--the 1994 Convention in McPherson, **March 3-6**, is rapidly approaching! The highlight of any AKT convention is the opportunity to recognize persons and organizations within the state who have supported theatre in Kansas by nominating them for one of the AKT awards presented at the annual convention. Any AKT member in good standing can nominate a candidate for the following awards:

### **KANSAS THEATRE HALL OF FAME**

"This award shall be given for extraordinary work and commitment to the theatre over an EXTENDED period of time; the person should be from Kansas or have worked in Kansas for an EXTENDED period of time."

The Hall of Fame Award is the highest honor AKT bestows. It was established in 1980 with the induction of Karl Bruder, Jed Davis, Irene Vickers Baker, Bob Gard, and Peggy Green. Since that time, the following individuals have been added: George Murdock and Mary Jane Teall (1981), William Gibson (1983), the late William Inge (1984), Charles Kephart and Gladys Six (1985), Bruce and Veda Rogers (1986), Twink Lynch (1987), Richard Welsbacher and Charles Lown (1988), Norman Fedder (1990), Demmarree Carns and Dale Easton (1991), William Kulkhe (1992), and **Mildred Brown, Ernestine Hayes, and Martha Herrick (1993).**

### **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN THEATRE**

"This award shall be given for an achievement of state, regional, or national significance; may be short-term or long-term in nature." Last year's winner was **Shawnee Mission North High School.**

### **STEVEN B. CATHEY AWARD**

"This award shall be given to business leaders or organizations who exhibit the same breadth of vision as Steven B. Cathey of Southwestern Bell in their endeavors to bring business and the arts together in Kansas."

Established in 1987 in honor of the late Steven B. Cathey of Southwestern Bell Telephone, who was instrumental in creating their Kansas Arts Excellence Program, this award replaces the old Kansas Business and



Theatre Awards which were given to businesses that "supported theatre in Kansas." Last year's award was presented to **Hills Inc.** for its support of the arts in general, and the Topeka Performing Arts Center in particular.

### AWARD OF MERIT

"This award shall be given for an achievement, short-term in nature, and primarily local in impact."

Last year's recipients were **Cloud County Community College Summer Theatre Academy**, for providing theatrical opportunities for young people in culturally disadvantaged areas; **Ray Makalous**, for coordinating an original musical, *Overland*; and **Paul Prece**, for developing the children's theatre program at Washburn University.

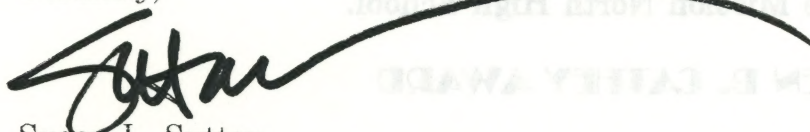
### LEGISLATOR AWARD

The Legislator Award recognizes those members of branches of the state or federal legislature who demonstrate outstanding support for theatre and the arts, as documented by their voting records or other concrete evidence. (Attendance at plays alone is not sufficient for this award.) State Representative Carol Sader, Prarie Village, received the 1991 award.

Nomination of outstanding high school teachers and administrators for special awards will also be solicited through mailings to each of the high schools within the state.

Nomination letters and supporting materials for candidates for this year's awards should be sent to **Susan Sutton, Cloud County Community College, Concordia, Kansas 66901**, or call at 913 243-1435. Nominations deadline is **February 18**. Please be certain to include the nominee's name, address and phone number, as well as the name, address and phone number of the nominator.

Cordially,



Susan L. Sutton  
AKT Community College Liason



# AKT Convention '94 & Membership Registration Form

## McPherson College, McPherson, KS March 3-6, 1994

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

### Convention '94: 20 Years of Kansas Theatre Registration Fees:

\_\_\_\_\_ Full Registration: \$65.00 Members  
\$75.00 Non-members  
\$15.00 Students  
\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday Night Pizza Party - \$5.00 per person  
\_\_\_\_\_ Friday Night "Chicken for Hams" Dinner - \$8.00 per person  
\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday 20th Anniversary Banquet - \$10.00 per person  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sunday Buffet - Sandwiches-to-Go - \$6.00 per person  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Convention Fees  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Registration  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED**

*Mail these forms, along with Convention and Membership Fees to:*

**AKT Central Office**  
230 Curtis Street  
Hutchinson, KS 67502-2422

## AKT Membership Application

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

**Individual:** \_\_\_\_\_ Regular \$25  
\_\_\_\_\_ Student \$10  
\_\_\_\_\_ Senior \$10

### Organizational:

\_\_\_\_\_ Small (Budget under \$5000) \$35  
\_\_\_\_\_ Medium (Budget \$5000-\$9999) \$40  
\_\_\_\_\_ Large (Budget over \$10,000) \$70  
\_\_\_\_\_ Full Representation \$175

(NOTE: Organizational memberships include 3 complimentary student memberships, and Full Representation memberships include 8 full memberships)

### Contributing:

\_\_\_\_\_ Contributors \$50-\$99  
\_\_\_\_\_ Friends \$100-\$249  
\_\_\_\_\_ Donors \$250-\$499  
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\_\_\_\_\_ Patrons \$1000-\$4999  
\_\_\_\_\_ Benefactors \$5000 & up

### DIVISION AFFILIATIONS (Select 2):

\_\_\_\_\_ Children's Theatre  
\_\_\_\_\_ Community Theatre  
\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Theatre  
\_\_\_\_\_ Professional Theatre  
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## AKT Board of Directors

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(h) 316-665-8209

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#### **Lou Brewer**

230 Curtis Street  
Hutchinson, KS 67502-2422  
9H) 316-665-8209 or  
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### Children's Division

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4812 Lakewood Ridge  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
(h) 913-537-0380

### **Deb Wall, At-Large**

303 East Iron Avenue  
P.O. Box 2305  
Salina, KS 67402  
(h) 913-827-6126

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412 West 8th Street #305  
Kansas City, MO 64015-1409  
(w) 913-780-7270  
(h) 816-421-7445

### **Joan Blazek, Chair-Elect**

11219 West 3rd  
Wichita, KS 67202  
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(w) 316-722-0441  
(h) 316-729-7397

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Newton, KS 67114  
(h) 316-283-7925

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1700 SW College Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66621  
(w) 913-231-1010 ext. 1639  
(h) 913) 266-9022

### **Susan Sutton, CC Liaison**

1408 East 11th Street  
Concordia, KS 66901  
(w) 913-243-1435 ext. 238  
(h) 913-243-7861

### Community Theatre Division

#### **Laurie VanderPol-Hosek, Chair**

Route 7, Box 349  
Lawrence, KS 66049  
(H) 913-841-1680

### **Rick Bushnell, Chair-Elect**

211 N. Malcolm  
Chanute, KS 66720  
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## The Marquee

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This program is presented in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



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The Marquee has been underwritten by a generous grant from